

From: Dr. Stephen J. Kennedy
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/27/02 5:25pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

To Whom It May Concern:

There is nothing that has done more harm to innovation in computer software than Microsoft. Microsoft is largely an 'anti-innovation' company. The development of the company is, for the most part, based on ruthless, unethical, and probably illegal business practices. The result is that the computer software landscape is now largely the 'dead zone'.

Would you like to use a word processor? Sure, no problem, as long as it is MS Word. I still recall how appalled I was the first time I noted the National Science Foundation (the primary federal funding agency for basic research in the physical sciences) was requiring grant applications in WORD! The product of a private company. It was as if giving Microsoft money was an unavoidable tax levied on anyone who wanted to be a citizen of this country. There was a time, which I can well recall, when there was a wide choice of word processing software, both on the DOS (later Windows) and Macintosh side.

Is this because of the inherent superiority of Word? That is laughable. Word has it's adherents but in my opinion is far down the list of good design. After the monopoly was established we entered into the endless cycle of useless upgrades, cleverly insinuated by Microsofts purposeful file incompatibilities. Another unavoidable tax levied by an entity that is now as powerful (or apparently more powerful) than the federal government elected to represent us all.

Other areas, followed the same pattern.

The proposed settlement is an obscene joke and apparently we will have to kill the smothering influence of Microsoft in some other way. I am absolutely opposed to the settlement as described in the press.

Regards,

Stephen J. Kennedy